

11

60 calculates the position pressed by the user by calculating the position where these surface acoustic waves Wvx and Wvy are attenuated.

FIG. 5 is a graph showing one example of the envelope waveform of a detected surface acoustic wave.

In FIG. 5, the horizontal axis shows time, and the vertical axis shows a schematic view of the strength of the surface acoustic waves. In what follows, a description is given regarding the case where the surface acoustic wave Wvx is transmitted from the X transmitter 51 over the surface of the second touch panel substrate 14 as the transmission signal. The surface acoustic wave Wvx transmitted from the X transmitter 51 passes through reflection arrays 55 and 57, and is detected by the X receiver 52. At this time, the respective reflection elements of the reflection arrays 55 and 57 establish a set of multiple paths of different length. The surface acoustic wave Wvx reflected by the respective reflection elements which are continuous in the reflection arrays 55 and 57 gradually transmits the lengthening path, and arrives at the X receiver 52. As shown in FIG. 5, compared to the transmission signal, the waveform of the reception signal detected by the X receiver 52 is a trapezoidal waveform whose extent grows over time.

When the user presses a certain specific place on the coordinate input face, the amplitude of the surface acoustic wave Wvx which transmits that part is attenuated. As shown in FIG. 5, a signal drop-off occurs in the envelope waveform of the surface acoustic wave Wvx due to the pressing. By measuring the time Tg from detection of the reception signal until occurrence of signal drop-off due to this pressing, it is possible to calculate the attenuation position which is the position where the surface acoustic wave Wvx is attenuated. As a result, it is possible to identify the X coordinate of the pressed site. In the case also where the Y coordinate of the pressed site is identified, the signal drop-off due to pressing shown in FIG. 5 occurs in the envelope waveform of the surface acoustic wave Wvy. In this case, as well, by measuring the time from detection of the reception signal until occurrence of signal drop-off due to this pressing, it is possible to calculate the attenuation position which is the position where the surface acoustic wave Wvy is attenuated, and it is possible to identify the Y coordinate of the pressed site. The controller 60 is programmed to recognize an attenuation factor value higher than the threshold value of the reception strength attenuation factor of noise as attenuation due to pressing by the user. The controller 60 is able to calculate the X coordinate and Y coordinate of the position pressed by the user based on the surface acoustic wave Wvx detected by the X receiver 52 and the surface acoustic wave Wvy detected by the Y receiver 53.

In the present embodiment, the first touch panel substrate 11 and the resin film 26 formed on the inner face 11a bend toward the second touch panel substrate 14 due to the pressing of the input face of the first touch panel substrate 11 of the touch panel 50. The bent part of the resin film 26 contacts the second touch panel substrate 14. The stress due to the pressing in the substrate direction is absorbed by the resin film 26 which has a low elastic modulus. The bending of the resin film 26 expands the area of the contact portion of the resin film 26 and the second touch panel substrate 14. The surface waves propagated over the inner face 14a of the second touch panel substrate 14 are blocked by the contact portion of the resin film 26 and the second touch panel substrate 14, and are adequately changed (attenuated) in this contact portion. The position detection means is able to detect the pressed position with a high degree of accuracy based on the position where the surface waves are changed.

12

Moreover, in this embodiment, the surface acoustic waves are generated on the inner face 14a of the second touch panel substrate 14 (between the first touch panel substrate 11 and the second touch panel substrate 14), and are propagated over this inner face 14a. As the inner face 14a of the second touch panel substrate 14 where the surface waves are propagated is not exposed to the outside, it is possible to prevent foreign matter, impurities and the like from adhering to the inner face 14a. Furthermore, it is possible to prevent changes in the surface waves due to the adhesion of foreign matter, impurities and the like to the face of the second touch panel substrate 14 where the surface waves are formed. As a result, malfunctions of the liquid crystal display device 100 can be prevented.

Second Embodiment

Next, a second embodiment is described with reference to drawings.

In the foregoing first embodiment, the touch panel is configured from the pairing of a first touch panel substrate and a second touch panel substrate. In contrast, the present embodiment differs in that the touch panel is configured from a single thin-plate substrate. As the remaining basic configuration of the liquid crystal display device is identical to that of the aforementioned first embodiment, the same code numbers are given to shared components, and detailed description thereof is omitted.

FIG. 6 is a sectional view showing the schematic configuration of the liquid crystal display device 100 pertaining to the present embodiment.

As shown in FIG. 6, a thin-plate substrate 11 (touch panel substrate) is arranged on the outer face 2a side of the color filter substrate 2 of the liquid crystal display panel 30 (the face of the color filter substrate 2 which is opposite the liquid crystal layer 4 side) with the opening of a fixed interstice via spacers.

The resin film 26 is formed over the entire surface of the inner face 11a of the thin-plate substrate 11 (the face of the thin-plate substrate 11 which is opposite the color filter substrate 2). In the present embodiment, the attenuation factor of the resin film 26 is higher than the reception strength attenuation factor of surface acoustic waves due to noise, and the Young's modulus of the resin film 26 is lower than that of the thin-plate substrate 11 and upper polarization plate 15. As the resin film 26, one may use, for example, polyethylene.

Transmitters 54 (51) that transmit surface acoustic waves and receivers 53 (52) that receive the transmitted surface acoustic waves are provided on the outer face 2a of the color filter substrate 2. The surface acoustic waves are generated on the outer face 2a of the color filter substrate 2.

In the present embodiment, as the resin film 26 is provided on the inner face of thin-plate substrate 11 of the touch panel 50, it is possible to obtain the same effects as the aforementioned first embodiment.

Third Embodiment

Next, the present embodiment is described with reference to drawings.

In the foregoing first embodiment, the input part pressed by the finger of the user was configured from a touch panel substrate composed of glass. In contrast, the present embodiment differs in that the input part pressed by the finger of the user is configured from resin film and a polarization plate. As the remaining basic configuration of the liquid crystal display device is identical to that of the aforementioned first embodi-